TOO HOT

L.A.'s really a desert
But they made other places
(Owens Valley, lower Colorado
River Valley) deserts so it
Wouldn't be

Still, water can't change the
Fact of August in the
San Fernando Valley
Triple digits every year

I remember 116 one year
When I was twelve or so
Shutters closed to keep the
House dark (this was before
We got air conditioning)
Fascinated by the dust
Floating in that
Single ray of sunlight
Coming through where
The slats didn't quite meet

But "it's not the heat
It's the humidity"
I love steam baths
Those who know me
Will tell you, but
That cold shower when
You leave is what makes
The rush real

Lamu, north of Mombasa
On Kenya's Indian Ocean coast
That's a sauna you just
Can't leave. Florida? No
Give me a desert over
A swamp any day

Crime rates rise with the
Heat, you know
Up to a point
Finally, it's too hot
For even criminals to
Move

I prefer the cold
I can always add
Another layer of clothing
But I can't take off
My skin